Thursday, April 2, 2009

Library RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 9

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Library Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to add a one full-time equivalent (FTE) position, resulting in a total of three FTE positions for the Loan Star Libraries Grant Program funded by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding for this FTE increase is available in the amount of \$28,279 from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The grant periods are September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009 and September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Dana McBee, Financial Manager / 974-7433 Susan Soy, Grants and Records Manager / 974-7388

Prior Council Action: Council approved the first grant as part of the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget for \$110,000 and 2.00 FTEs on September 10, 2007. Council approved a grant amendment to accept an additional \$90,000 in grant funds on January 17, 2008 for a total grant amount of \$200,000 and 2.00 FTEs. Council approved a second grant amendment to accept an additional \$100,000 in grant funds on August 21, 2008 for a total grant amount of \$300,000 and 2.00 FTEs. Council approved the budget for the second grant as part of the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget for \$300,000 and 2.00 FTEs on September 8, 2008.

The Loan Star Libraries grant program currently provides funding for a full-time webmaster to develop and maintain an interactive Youth Services website, the Austin Public Library (Library) website, the Library's internal Intranet site, and the Library's on-line Web Catalog Findlt. The grant program also funds a full-time Public Information Specialist to assist with organizing, planning, directing, and coordinating the disbursement of news and information to the general public and the media regarding the Library's programs and services. Funding also helps advertise the youth web page, youth programs, and other websites and programming. The Library also uses the funds for additional literacy programs and for support for the Summer Reading Program.

Via a grant adjustment, the Library will hire a full-time Virtual Library Administrator to develop and maintain strategic and operational plans for the Library's on-going online information, content, and website development program. The person in this position will forecast, plan, and control the presentation and accessibility of online Library services and will coordinate and oversee the delivery of the end product which is the Library website, through which information, the library catalog, and other content is presented and delivered to the public.

All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City.